

# APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR AUTOMATIC POWER CONTROL

## Abstract

An apparatus and method for automatic power control is disclosed. An optical recording apparatus utilizes a low-speed, peak-hold circuit to obtain and output a maximum of a front photodiode output signal during a predetermined window or plurality of windows of a total duration long enough to allow maximum peak-hold signal to stabilize. After stabilization, the maximum peak-hold signal is sampled and held in a sample and hold circuit. A reset then clears the signal and reinitializes the peak-hold circuit. In accordance with the difference between a reference voltage and the held peak-hold signal, a feedback controller unit outputs the required current level into a driving unit for producing desired recording pulses into a laser diode for recording information pits into an optical disc. A calibration gain may be used when, due to insufficient FPD response speed, the held signal is different than the real optical power output.